





John Carter Brown.







See JCB Cat. for 1671 and 1675.







11:12

Not a Book

cut p. 97.

This is another translation of an Internal  
Relation. written originally in Portuguese  
By Don Francisco Alcazarado.



AN  
HISTORICAL  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
DISCOVERY  
OF THE  
ISLAND  
OF  
MADEIRA,

Abridged from the Portuguese Original.

To which is added,

An Account of the present State

OF THE  
ISLAND,  
IN A  
LETTER TO A FRIEND.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. PAYNE, and J. BOUQUET, at  
Pater Noster Row,  
M,DCC,L.



HISTORICAL  
ACCOUNT

DISCOVERY

ISLAND

MADAGASCAR

Discovered from the East

An Account of the

OF THE

ISLAND

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LETTER TO A FRIEND.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Bland and J. Bland

Printed by

MDCCL



# P R E F A C E

**W**HEN we hear of any place distinguished for its people or productions, which a few years ago was uncultivated, uninhabited, and unknown; we are naturally led to enquire, how the discovery of it was made, and by what stages it has arrived at its present state of perfection and importance. Nor is this inquiry an effect of meer curiosity, but is in part prompted by an inseparable interest in the welfare of mankind, which the accession of new territory is generally believed to promote, as immediately subsisting individuals, and consequentially extending commerce, learning, manners, and the mutual intercourse of kind offices.

THE accounts of all important discoveries gratify this curiosity, and this benevolence: but among these there are a few that go still farther, and by their peculiar circumstances excite that species of wonder, and produce those effects upon the passions, from which a romance derives its power to please, even at the expence of truth. The danger and difficulties



*culties of a great enterprize, the motives for engaging in it, and the prudence, fortitude, and resolution, with which it is conducted, afford a pleasing example of the power of perseverance, the success of human wisdom, and human virtue, when properly applied and exerted.*

*OF this kind is the discovery of MADEIRA; which, for the incidents that produced it, the difficulties that obstructed the progress of the undertaking, and the spirit and constancy with which it was at length accomplished, is eminent above every other that history has afforded us. And the relation of it becomes peculiarly interesting to an Englishman, as an Englishman was the first discoverer, tho' by accident and misfortune; and remotely the second, since the Portugueze engaged in the expedition, solely upon the knowledge which they had obtained of that event.*

*SOME loose and general accounts of this discovery have already been offered to the public: but many of them have a studied air of romance and fable, which, in the judgment of superficial and careless readers, destroys the credibility of the story; and the rest, tho' they have the plainness of a narrative, are written  
with*



*with a professed suspicion of the truth of the facts, and with formal objections against them.*

THE writers of the first may, perhaps, plead the turn and spirit of the Portuguese original, which, if admitted to be faulty in this respect, should, therefore, have been corrected, and the stile reduced, rather than heightened. But tho' they have fallen far beneath the true spirit of this original, and have not been able to preserve the lofty manner in which it describes the important events, yet, by an impotent endeavour to imitate beauties which they but imperfectly discovered, they have given an air of extravagance and fiction to the most trivial occurrences. The original, however, tho' it be allowed to want simplicity, cannot justly be suspected as a relation of facts; because facts can neither lose or acquire much by the pomp of the description. That the Portuguese discovered MADEIRA, is a general truth, for which there are more evidences than this history; and that this history contains a faithful relation of the particular manner of the discovery, is clearly attested by the records of the nation.

BUT



*BUT there are \* formal objections to the authenticity of this relation, which may be stated thus.*

“ First, FRANCISCO ALCAFORADO, esquire to Don HENRY infant of Portugal, and a voluntier in the expedition to MADEIRA, wrote a complete relation of the discovery of that island, which was afterwards published by Don FRANCISCO MANOEL. But there are certain circumstances in this relation, which do not quadrate with the time of the author; and prove, either that it is not genuine, or that it has been interpolated: such as, the taking notice of the invention of the astrolabe, and other instruments used in sailing, page 25; Funchal being mentioned as formerly the metropolis of the western islands in spiritualities, page 37; the name of Agravados given to the Arabian Sea, page 39; the title of marquiss, said to have been hitherto enjoyed by GONSALVO's heirs, page 42; and the confutation of De Barros's assertion, that GONSALVO set fire to the woods of MADEIRA, page 44: all which circumstances

\* Notes to the collection of voyages in 4 vols 4to, printed for T. Astley, vol. 1. page 566-572.



## P R E F A C E.

“stances refer to a time long after ALCA-  
 “FORADO, and, therefore, cannot be a  
 “part of his genuine relation.”

“Secondly, MORALES is said to be a  
 “prisoner in Morocco, when the compa-  
 “nions of MACHIN were driven thither,  
 “page 18: and as MACHIN’s arrival at  
 “MADEIRA is supposed to be in the reign  
 “of Edward the third, who died in 1378,  
 “MORALES must have been a prisoner  
 “more than forty two years, when he was  
 “met by GONSALVO, in his return from  
 “captivity, in 1420, page 22: which is  
 “not only highly improbable, but contrary  
 “to the sense of the historian, who sup-  
 “poses but a short space of time to have  
 “elapsed between both events. And this  
 “is an objection to the truth of the history.”

*THE refutation of the first objection is short.  
 It proceeds wholly upon a mistake with regard  
 to the real author of the history, whom the  
 objector supposes to be ALCAFORADO. But  
 this is so far from being asserted, or even im-  
 plied, in any part of the history, that the con-  
 trary is declared in plain terms; for the wri-  
 ter, taking occasion at the mention of ALCA-  
 FORADO, to acknowledge his obligations to  
 him,*



him, says, that to this gentleman he was indebted for the materials of his account, page 24. *And the structure of the whole narrative is such as obviates all possible mistake in this respect, and leaves not the shadow of a difficulty about the opposition of time and fact. But compilers of voyages would be buried under the works of others, which they so industriously heap together, if they did not appear sometimes in a note, and by a happy observation convince the reader, not of their existence only but their importance.*

THE case of the writer of the history before us is evidently this: ALCAFORADO kept a journal of the whole expedition, which was presented to the infant DON HENRY, and afterwards enlarged by the addition of minutes of all the transactions that immediately succeeded their return to Lisbon, and of GONSALVO's second voyage to MADEIRA, when he went to establish a colony there; and these papers were carefully preserved by the INFANT, as the original and circumstantial records of an event in which he was deeply interested. But no use was made of them for public information, till about two hundred years after; when DON FRANCISCO MANOEL having acquired the possession of them, was induced to use them as  
the



*the stamina of a history of this discovery; and without injuring his materials, he might justly incorporate any remark or illustration of his own, and particularly the observations which are made the foundation of this objection. DON FRANCISCO MANOEL, then, is the real author of the history; and ALCAFORADO stands in no other relation to it, than as the person who accidentally furnished the materials for compiling it: in which view, the first objection totally disappears.*

*THE second objection is plausible: but as it relates to a particular circumstance very trifling in itself, and which cannot invalidate the general truth of the history; there could be no cause for making it, but the objector's vigilance to introduce himself. And this appears to be the real case; for he immediately suggests an argument to shew that his objection has little or no weight. \* MORALES, if he will have it so, might impose upon GONSALVO and the INFANT, and, in order to ingratiate himself, take advantage of their predominant passion for new discoveries, and*

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\* Nor can we see, how it is possible to obviate this objection, but by supposing, either that MORALES told a lye, in saying he had the account of the discovery from the English themselves, instead of other slaves, among whom the tradition might have run many years after; or that ALCAFORADO, the historian, mistook the report of MORALES in this particular. vol. 1. p. 569. note.



represent an event that took place seventy years ago, and which he only gained the knowledge of by report, as a recent fact, and what he was informed of by the persons concerned. Or ALCAFORADO might be remiss and inaccurate in taking down the account which MORALES delivered: for it does not appear, that DON MANOEL was indebted to ALCAFORADO for the story of LIONEL in the same order and dependence of one circumstance upon another, in which it is here related; nor is it probable that such a minute detail of events, that had no immediate connexion with the expedition, made any part of ALCAFORADO's journal; but DON MANOEL might have recourse to tradition, or employ his own judgment and invention, for the improvement of that geneal information which ALCAFORADO only gave him.

BUT waving this, and allowing the difficulty its full force, it may be justly asked, how a mistake in point of time with regard to a single circumstance of small moment, can amount to an objection to the truth of the history. It is sufficiently evident, that MADEIRA was discovered by MACHIN an Englishman, in the manner here related: Galvano mentions the reports in the kingdom of Arragon,



gon, about that time, in attestation of the fact; the tradition among the inhabitants of MADEIRA, recited by Ovington, corroborates it; and the testimony of GONSALVO and his people, who found the tree, the grave, and the inscription, place it beyond all doubt. It is as evident also, that the attempt of the Portuguese to discover MADEIRA, was made solely upon the information of a Spanish pilot, that MACHIN had discovered it before them: but whether his discovery preceeded theirs seventy, or seven, or two years, is a circumstance not worth notice, as it cannot be adjusted; and appears exceedingly trifling, when urged as an objection to the truth of the history, which stands yet unshaken, so far as regards the fact of MACHIN's discovery, the attempt of the PORTUGUEZE upon the knowledge of it, and the reality and principal circumstances of their discovery: and the only point that admits of any degree of doubt, is the precise time of MACHIN's adventure, which, according to this history, happened probably in the year 1349, between the surrender of Calais, and the great plague; but, according to Galvano, in the year 1344, and to Herbert in 1328.

As this single circumstance of time, therefore,



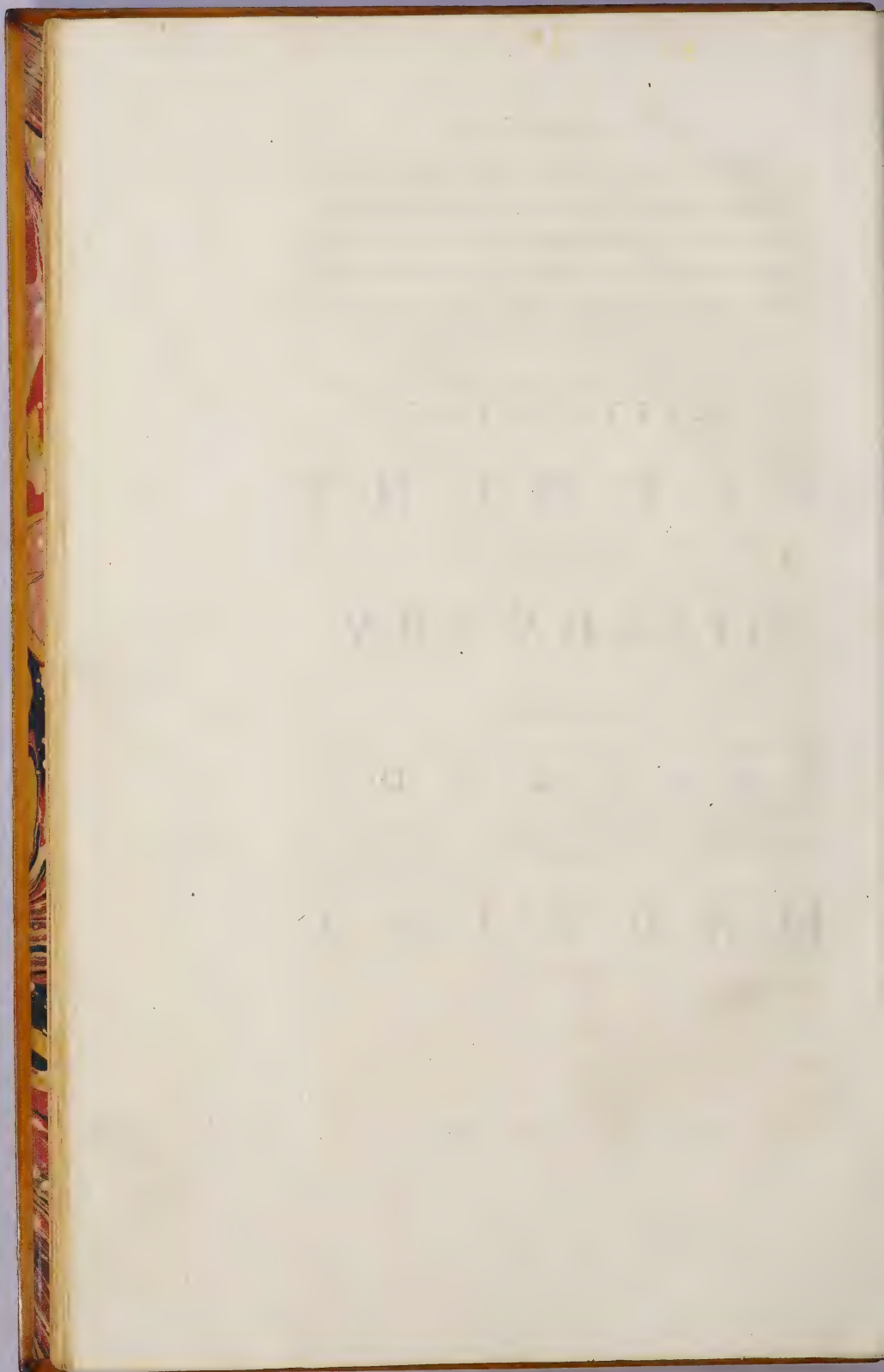
*fore, is wrapt up in such thick obscurity as no historian has yet been able to penetrate; it must be left to the judgment of the reader, whether it is of consequence enough, to diffuse uncertainty and discredit over other facts, that are consistent in themselves and with each other, and clearly and powerfully attested.*

## E R R A T A.

Page 18. line 17. for JEAN, read JUAN. p. 19. line 9. dele the comma after *John*, and insert it after *first*. p. 23. l. 25. dele the comma after *order*. p. 24 l. 6. dele the comma after *Alcaforado*.

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ENGLAND having obtained a safe and honourable peace, under her victorious monarch Edward the third; London, the metropolis, drew together the young gentlemen of every province, by the variety of its pleasures: among whom appeared LIONEL MACHIN, a younger brother of a good family, but greatly impoverished by the late wars. As he had a virtuous ambition, and a true sense of propriety and decency of character, extravagance and riot were but ill suited either to his



taste or his views ; and, in consequence of a deliberate purpose to preserve his honour free from stain or imputation, he presently withdrew himself from the sports and revellings to which his companions were devoted. This regularity of conduct, joined to the generosity of his temper, and the gracefulness of his person, endeared him to every heart, and rendered him eminent above every one of his age and condition.

BUT he had not long enjoyed the public esteem, and the tranquillity of prudence and virtue, before he unfortunately became enamoured of ARABELLA DARCY, the most distinguished beauty not only of the court but kingdom ; who, by the virtues of her mind, the charms of her person, the dignity of her family, and the greatness of her fortune, had attracted a number of admirers among the principal nobility. Yet, notwithstanding such powerful obstacles to the success of his wishes, LIONEL industriously cherished his passion, and even ventured to make a public declaration of it ; and so great was the force of his exalted merit, that the lady soon preferred him to all his  
rivals,

rivals, and professed her willingness to receive him as her husband.

A N inclination so repugnant to the pride and ambition of ARABELLA's family, could not fail of being discouraged. Her father and mother exerted all their authority to suppress it: but finding every endeavour fruitless, they at length preferred their complaint to the king, representing the disgrace that such an alliance would bring upon their house, and the great injury it would do to their daughter's fortune, as they had before concluded a very advantageous match for her, which she now refused to accept: they, therefore, humbly besought his majesty to interpose his royal authority, and save their family from a stain, which they should never be able to wipe off. The king gave a favourable ear to their petition, and determined that LIONEL should be arrested, and, that, during his confinement, ARABELLA should be compelled to marry the nobleman for whom her father had designed her. Accordingly LIONEL was sent to prison, and the poor lady, in spite of all her reluctance, forced to take Lord \* \* \* for her husband, who immediately after retired to his seat at Bristol.



LIONEL, at the news of this marriage, was seized with the keenest anguish : but being satisfied that ARABELLA's affection for him could not be abated, he lost all patience at his restraint, and immediately employed his friends to supplicate the king for his liberty ; which, as his majesty had no end in his confinement, but to gratify the lady's parents, and secure her marriage, they easily obtained. His passion was rendered more ardent by his imprisonment ; and having revolved in his mind, during the latter part of that painful interval, various schemes of revenge, and fixed upon one not less difficult than bold, he was determined, now he had gained his liberty, to put it in execution. To this end he secretly called together those of his friends and kinsmen, in whom he could repose the greatest confidence, and addressed them in the following manner.

“ You cannot but conclude, my friends,  
 “ that the indignity I have so lately suffered  
 “ is the cause of my assembling you together ; and I am persuaded, that if I were  
 “ base enough to forget it, you have too  
 “ much honour to neglect a just revenge.  
 The

“ The forcing the Lady ARABELLA to own  
 “ an usurped title, is surely an affliction as  
 “ deeply felt by her as by me, and I am  
 “ determined to deliver her out of the power  
 “ of the man she hates. The attempt, I con-  
 “ fess, is bold and hazardous, and I would  
 “ willingly make it alone, and not expose you  
 “ to the dangers that attend it : but it would  
 “ be unjust, my worthy kinsmen, if I under-  
 “ took singly to revenge abuses done us all ;  
 “ if I did not allow you to share in the re-  
 “ dress, as you share in the wrong ; for  
 “ tho’ I alone am sensible to its keen ran-  
 “ cour, yet the dishonour of it stains deep-  
 “ ly our whole house. But were you not  
 “ thus interested, I would not doubt your  
 “ concurrence : avowed enemies, who  
 “ openly offend, are more excusable than  
 “ those specious friends, who, when we  
 “ are depressed by difficulties, withhold their  
 “ assistance ; and should any one of you a-  
 “ bandon me, I would discard him from  
 “ my heart for ever. But of this I have  
 “ no suspicion. Let us, then, immediately  
 “ prepare to execute a just and noble re-  
 “ venge.

THIS speech produced the desired ef-  
 fect, and they unanimously bound them-  
 selves,



selves, by the most solemn engagements, to share all his fortunes. It was then resolved, that they should immediately disperse, and take several roads to Bristol, there to contrive the necessary measures, and watch every opportunity for relieving the distressed ARABELLA. The neighbourhood and conveniency of the sea, promised greatly to facilitate their scheme. France was fixed upon as a commodious retreat, and the antipathy then subsisting between that crown and England, offered them all the security they could desire. They did not question their success, as it depended chiefly upon their courage, which was highly raised, from the consideration of the many heroic actions that had been gloriously achieved, when love was the motive for attempting them.

AFTER their arrival at Bristol, the first thing concluded upon was, to introduce one of the company into the service of ARABELLA's lord, and he was accordingly entertained by him as his groom; in the exercise of which office, he had the good fortune to have assigned to his care a beautiful horse, which ARABELLA always rode, when she went out to take the air,  
either

either in company with her husband; or alone; for such was the innocence of those times, that a lady's honour was esteemed sufficient to protect the conjugal rights from violation.

HAVING thus successfully completed the first step, the next subject of consultation was the seizure of a strong vessel, of which there were many constantly riding in the harbour; and the probability of accomplishing this, was grounded on their own vigilance and activity, and the common negligence of the sailors. The more effectually to cover their design, they purchased a shallop, with which they every day rowed out to sea, as on a party of pleasure; so that when it was to take place, they would be able to conduct it with less suspicion, both from the people on shore, and those on board the vessels which rode at anchor near to that which they intended to make use of.

ARABELLA, who had been informed of the scheme, and approved it, received constant intelligence of all these resolutions from her new domestic, and regulated her measures by the information. And, in a short time, all things being favourable, and the wind  
come



come about fair at north, she had notice that LIONEL and his companions waited for her in the shallop; she therefore ordered her horse to be got ready, and, attended only by the fictitious groom, who served her as a guide, rode directly to the place where the impatient lover stood waiting to receive her.

THE only point which they had now to gain, was the seizure of the vessel, and this they had no difficulty to accomplish, as the owners of that they made choice of, gave a farewell feast on shore, to which all the ship's company, except one man and a boy, were invited. As soon as they were all embarked, they loosed the sails, cut the cables, and, the wind blowing a fresh gale, they steered directly for the coast of *France*.

THE eyes of love are not always blind. LIONEL, considering the quality and power of ARABELLA's husband, did not doubt but he would immediately engage all the ships in the harbour to pursue the ravishers of his wife. He, therefore, made all the sail he could, and, the more effectually to perplex the search, varied at night the course he had steered in the day. His motions had all that irregularity and precipitation, which usually

usually attend a breach of civil justice, and a dread of its consequences; and in forty-eight hours he found himself safe from pursuit. But the wind, which had hitherto been favourable, grew impetuous, and seemed to threaten a violent and dangerous storm.

ARABELLA, who had found leisure for reflection, began to compare her former condition with the present. But to divert the melancholy that was invading her, she came for the first time upon deck, where observing nothing but a tempestuous sea, and feeling the rudeness of a wind to which she had never before been exposed, she was struck with the misery to which she had reduced herself. And as the vessel was now become the sport of the sea and winds, grief and consternation took possession of every breast.

AFTER five days failing, without discovering a place of shelter to which they might retreat, the storm became so vehement, that it drove them far wide of the coast of France, where all their hopes were centred. And now the companions of LIONEL, having no object in view but their own safety, vented aloud their complaints at the  
unequal



unequal treatment of fortune, who made no difference between the innocent and the guilty, but threatened them all with one common ruin. But LIONEL had not the privilege of complaint to relieve his mind, which love, friendship, and despair, filled with the most complicated distress. He not only found his own high raised hopes of happiness threatened with speedy and total disappointment, but he considered his brave and generous associates, and, more than all, his dear ARABELLA, as the devoted prey of the merciless sea.

THIRTY days had they continued in this dreadful situation, tossing on the wide and boisterous ocean, and expecting death from every gust and every wave, when, the morning after, the storm happily subsided, and they imagined that they saw land. As they approached nearer, their confidence increased, and they soon discovered a shore, which appeared high, craggy, and covered with trees. Their joy was now as great as their despair had been. Poor ARABELLA could not conceal her transports; she hoped to find ample consolation for her past distresses, and a manner of life in some degree suited

squited to the tenderness and delicacy of her constitution.

LIONEL, fearing that he might split against some rock, founded with great circumspection, and at last came safely to an anchor. As they could not perceive any human creature, they conjectured that the place was uninhabited, and they were the more confirmed in this opinion, as a great number of birds, differing in size and colour, came familiarly and perched upon the masts, yards, and shrouds of the ship. But curiosity and necessity prompted them to make a closer examination, and a few of the most daring got out the boat and ventured to shore. Upon their return they reported, that it was indeed uninhabited, but that the air was good, and the earth fertile. Encouraged by this account, LIONEL and ARABELLA, with their whole company, except a few who were left on board to take care of the ship, went into the boat, and landed safely upon that shore where never man had set his foot.

As the sun rose higher, it presented to the view of our adventurers a most beautiful country. The hills were covered  
with



with stately trees, and the valleys abounded with small currents, and many bubbling springs of pure and delicious water. Some distance from the place of their landing, they found a beautiful level, surrounded with laurels and other shady trees, whose spreading branches were so interwoven, as to form a delightful bower. As they had resolved, after such a series of hardships, to taste the pleasures which so sweet a country seemed to promise, they chose this spot for the place of their residence, and by several improvements rendered it secure against the inclemencies of the weather. And now every one addressed himself to such employments as he was prompted to by particular fancy, or the common good : some penetrated the woods in search of food, others ranged the adjacent hills for new discoveries, while the rest were busied in exchanging necessaries with their friends aboard. They had forgot the perils of the sea, they had forgot even their native country, and seemed to enjoy here the innocent felicity of the purer ages of the world.

BUT the severe fate of our fugitives did not suffer this tranquillity to last long; for on the night of the thirteenth day of their

their arrival, there blew such a horrible storm from the north-east, as baffled all the industry of those on board the vessel, and they were forced to abandon her to the fury of the wind and sea. For two days they experienced the same distress from which they had been so lately delivered, at the end of which they once more discovered land: but as the vessel was leaky, and they were but unskilful mariners, they were reduced to run her ashore. This proved the beginning of new sorrows; for they had no sooner landed, than they found themselves upon the coast of Africa, in the kingdom of Morocco. The Moors, who beheld this shipwreck from the mountains, descended and seized upon the poor Christians, whom they dragged to the prison of their capital city.

THE succeeding day-light proved more comfortless to those on shore, than the darkness or the storm had been terrible to those on board. No ship appeared in view, nor did any return after five days anxious expectation; for till then they had hoped, that the extremity of the weather had only driven her out to sea. They saw themselves deprived of all the means of leaving that  
solitary



solitary and unknown part of the world; their stock of provisions was just exhausted, their apparel could not last long, and they must soon be reduced to depend upon the productions of an island, of which they had no knowledge, for a covering for their bodies, and the supports of life : their courage was dissipated, and they again became the victims of despair.

AND now the chief instruments of this accumulated distress beheld their precipitate conduct in its worst appearances. A deep melancholy seized the spirits of the tender ARABELLA, who from that moment spoke no more ; and at the end of three days she resigned her breath and her miseries together. But LIONEL felt a larger portion of affliction. He threw himself at the feet of the lifeless ARABELLA, and abandoned himself to the agonies of hopeless grief, and ineffectual remorse. Not all the tender endeavours of his friends could prevail on him to take any sustenance, or admit the least degree of consolation. The fifth day, however, put a period to his sorrows, and he expired in their arms ; beseeching them with his latest breath to bury him  
and

and his beloved mistress at the foot of a stately tree, that rose in the center of their habitation. They religiously fulfilled the injunction, and adorned this rustic monument with a large cross as a token of his faith, under which they placed an inscription containing the story of his love, and a request that if ever any Christians should inhabit that solitary place, they would over his grave erect a church to the honour of the blessed Jesus, and pray for the souls of the unhappy lovers.

AN event so melancholy in itself, and so destructive of every plan of future happiness, was naturally adapted to inspire the followers of this wretched pair with the most piercing sorrow, which every object and every thought renewed. The place soon became intolerable to them. Besides, they dreaded the indolent inactive life, to which a continuance in it must reduce them. They, therefore, fitted up the boat in the best manner they could, and having stored it with as many necessaries as it would hold, boldly ventured out to sea. But, unfortunately steering the same course which the late storm had forced their friends to take, they were, like them, brought upon the

C                      coast



coast of Afric, and, like them, freed from the dangers of the sea, to experience the more savage cruelty of unrelenting man. After becoming successively the property of many tyrants, and feeling the severities of slavery, in all its painful varieties, they were at length bought by the king of Morocco, and in this new situation they had the consolation of meeting with their old companions, whom till now they had believed to be shipwrecked.

THE prison for slaves in Morocco was of the same kind with that used now in Algiers, in which were always many Christians of different nations, and, amongst others at that time, a Spaniard born at Seville, whose name was JEAN DE MORALES, a man very skilful in navigation, having been employed for many years in the business of a pilot. His curiosity was greatly raised by the conversation of our English captives upon the subject of their adventures, and the long time they were together gave him sufficient opportunities to gratify it. He treasured up in his mind every particular circumstance of their voyage, and, comparing their account of the place with his own observations, he could

could no longer doubt, but that he had found out its exact situation, and hoped in time to make an advantageous use of the discovery.

BUT, in order to shew how his purpose was accomplished, it will be necessary to look back upon some transactions of a publick nature.

THE illustrious Don John, the first king of Portugal, having successfully finished his wars with Castile, and not thinking it expedient to abandon his troops to the enervating softness of peace, resolved to turn the force of his arms against the avowed enemies of his religion. He therefore invaded Africa, and, in the year 1415, made himself master of Ceuta, situate in the straits of Gibraltar; in which expedition his subjects behaved with the affection of children, and his children with the submissive duty of the lowest subjects. The Infant DON HENRY his youngest son, grand master of the order of Christ, particularly signalized himself by his bravery and enterprising genius. He had been always much devoted to the study of the mathematics, but, more particularly, to Cosmography,



which induced him, while at Ceuta, to solicit the conversation of those Moors and Jews, who, by their travels, had acquired a knowledge of the remoter parts of the earth. From them he learned the situation of several places of consequence which he had never before heard of, and the information did not fail to inspire him with a most ardent inclination to discover, and possess them; not so much to gratify his ambition, as to extend the knowledge of the true God. With an immediate view to accomplish this great design, after the conquest of Ceuta, he retired to the Algarves, and, on a convenient part of Cape St Vincent, erected a town to serve him as an arsenal for his shipping, which he named Terca Nabal: It was also called the town of the Infant. Here he made preparations for his future discoveries and conquests, and fitted out fleets for the Atlantic and Southern oceans, which were then deemed unnavigable, and, but for him, might have been deemed so till now.

JUAN GONSALVO ZARCO, gentleman of the bed-chamber to DON HENRY, was the person who principally assisted him in his discoveries, to which he applied the large revenues  
of

of the order of Christ. This gentleman was the first on whom the king conferred the honour of knighthood at the taking of Ceuta. He served the Infant in all his African expeditions, with a success proportioned to his great abilities, and the constancy of his resolution; and, it is said, that he first introduced the use of artillery in ships. He passed the streights in the year 1420, as he had in the year 1418 discovered the island of Puerto Santo, while he was prosecuting his search after cape Bajador.

ON the fifteenth of *March*, in the year 1416, Don Sancho, youngest son of Don Ferdinand king of Arragon, and grand master of the order of Calatrava, died in Castile, and left by will considerable sums of money for the redemption of Christian Spanish slaves in Morocco. With a part of this noble legacy a fleet was sent to Africa, and was returning to Tariff with a number of ransomed Christians (among whom was our JUAN DE MORALES) when GONSALVO happened to be cruizing in the streights with his master's fleet. And as the differences between the two crowns of Castile and Portugal were not yet wholly removed, the



subjects of the two kings still plundered each other without ceremony.

GONSALVO no sooner observed the foist, than he ordered out some light vessels, which after a short chase came up with, boarded, and without resistance took her. But reflecting upon the extreme misery in which he should involve these unhappy creatures, by suffering their late deliverance to be succeeded by a new captivity, and knowing the extraordinary clemency of his prince, he generously released all, but JUAN DE MORALES; his profound skill in maritime affairs, of which GONSALVO had received information, rendering him too valuable a prize to be given up, without the prince's express consent.

To be alone excepted in an act of mercy like this, was a circumstance that could not but aggravate the calamity by increasing regret. MORALES, however, who had been inured to the vicissitudes of fortune, preserved the steadiness of his mind, and, when he learnt the motives of such a seeming severity, rejoiced in the event. He made a voluntary offer of his best services to the Infant, promising to support the character

rafter that had been given of him. And the more to ingratiate himself with his new-master, he communicated to him the story of LIONEL and ARABELLA, and his determined purpose to go in quest of the place to which they had been driven, which he proved to be an attempt as practicable as it was advantageous. GONSALVO was delighted with the project, and returned to Terca Nabal, more rich in hope, than in all the prizes he had taken in his cruize. He flew to the infant, presented JUAN DE MORALES to him, extolled his great abilities, and expatiated on the glory and utility of the discovery which he had proposed. DON HENRY received him with great kindness and respect, and having heard from his own mouth a particular relation of every circumstance, conceived an impatience equal to that of his admiral, for engaging in the enterprize. He therefore resolved, that GONSALVO should immediately set out for Lisbon, to obtain the concurrence of the king his father, and the aid of the state, in a business of such importance to the nation ; and, in order, to obviate the objections which a spiritless and selfish ministry are generally disposed to make to every undertaking that is attended



with expence and difficulty, he sent Morales with him.

WHILST GONSALVO was on his journey to court, accompanied by the captains Juan Laurence, Francis Caravalaile, Ruy Paes, Alvare Alfons, and Francis de Alcaforado, (to whom we are indebted for the materials of this account) and with two other gentlemen skilful in navigation, named Anthony Gago, and Lorenzo Gomez ; DON HENRY gave orders for the equipping a fleet to effect this discovery, which, if the king should refuse his assistance, he resolved to prosecute at his own expence.

BUT the moderate supplies required for it, and the great advantages it seemed to promise the nation, gained our embassy a very favourable reception from the king. Some statesmen, however, jealous of the rising greatness of the Infant, exerted all their power to obstruct the scheme. They made light of the treasures proposed by it for the use of the state, and insinuated, that, admitting the reality of the acquisition, the prince had it in his power to secrete the greater part of it, and convert it to his own use. GONSALVO did not fail to remonstrate

to his master, that his project would probably perish under this malignant influence; and the continual delays it occasioned, at length so exasperated DON HENRY, that he left Terca Nabal to solicit in person what his officers could not obtain. He was no sooner arrived at court than he removed every difficulty in the mind of the king, and in the beginning of June, in the year 1420, GONSALVO put to sea with only one ship well-manned, and two small vessels with oars, very necessary in these expeditions. So inconsiderable was the force that parted from Lisbon upon a discovery of such great importance.

It was known as a fact in Puerto-Santo, the place GONSALVO intended first to make, that towards the north east there appeared a perpetual obscurity, which extended itself from the sea to the sky, without ever altering either in its shape or its situation. And because in that infancy of navigation they wanted the astrolabe and other instruments since invented, it was judged impossible to return should they pass this black cloud, and that they who ventured through it must inevitably perish. Some called it an unfathomable abyfs, others said it was the mouth

mouth of hell, and were supported in the assertion by the priests, who laboured to prove it both by argument and authority. The historians, not less superstitious, maintained that it was the Island antiently called Cipango, which God had miraculously hidden in a cloud, to protect the Spanish and Portugueze bishops, who fled thither from the persecutions of the Moors and Saracens; that it was directly contrary to the divine will to endeavour a farther discovery, for if he had pleased to have it take place, he would have manifested his approbation by such miracles as usually precede his permission of great events; and that, above all, divers antient prophecies, under severe penalties, forbade the enquiry into this sacred mystery.

GONSALVO set sail in very fair weather; but not being willing that any thing should escape his notice, he every night lowered his sails and lay at hull, proceeding only in the day, that he might the better observe any land that should accidentally present itself. This did not retard them so much, but that in a short time they arrived at Puerto-Santo, where they were shewn the horrid obscurity which had before been described to them.

UPON



UPON sight of this extraordinary phenomenon, they resolved to stay in the island that quarter of the moon, to observe if there was any variation either in its shape or size; but as it constantly retained the same form and magnitude, the majority of them began to dread the event; and to give up the expedition as presumptuous and desperate. A council was therefore called, when MORALES, fearing that this glorious attempt should be frustrated by meer cowardice and superstition, immediatly rose up, and urged every argument he could think of to engage them to proceed. He told them, that by the information he had gained from the English, the course he had steered, and other strong tokens, he was confident the place they wished to discover could not be far off; and added, that the dark cloud which so terribly alarmed them, was nothing more than a vast quantity of humid vapours (common to those places the shores of which like this are covered with trees) exhaled by the excessive heat of the sun, and formed into a large body, that at such a distance always seemed to retain the same form and place.

THIS

THIS did not fail to raise a general and most violent opposition. They tumultuously exclaimed against the poor pilot, and insinuated, that as he was a Castilian, and of course an enemy, he was fond of an expedition that exposed their people to imminent danger. They urged, that it was enough for men to encounter men, without commencing war against the Almighty. That the king and Infant were greatly injured by having a sett of brave fellows, who might render them many useful services, forced into certain ruin upon no better grounds than the idle dreams of a stranger. That GONSALVO might reasonably expect the full reward of his great merit, without precipitating himself into such excess of peril; for that it was not valour, but rashness, to rush on danger in hopeless enterprizes. That they ought to be content with the lands which providence had allotted them, and not, under pretence of religion, seek the conquest of new countries, and alienate the possession of them, which proved that they were more bent upon pursuing their own glory and advantage, than the cause of heaven. And, lastly, that they were but men, and therefore would

would not encounter difficulties which they knew to be above mortal strength.

THESE multiplied clamours did not in the least shake the resolution of GONSALVO, who, communicating his design only to MORALES, gave immediate orders for weighing anchor, and with all the sail he could make steered directly towards the cloud, the terror of the crew increasing in proportion as they drew nearer to it. As they crowded all their sail, they were soon advanced so far, that, altho' it was mid-day, the whole horizon was darkened, nor were land, sea, or sky, any longer to be discerned. A dreadful consternation seized them all, and with tears, and the most earnest supplications, they besought their chief to take pity on them, and not expose so many innocent people to inevitable death.

GONSALVO expected this event. But to justify his own constancy more than to dispel their fears, he ordered up the whole ship's company, and placing himself so as to be distinctly heard by all, he addressed them in the following manner.

“ Do you think, my friends, that I esteem  
 “ my life less than you do yours? If not,  
 “ what can have persuaded you, that if you  
 “ perish



“ perish I have any possible means left to  
 “ save myself? It would be unparallel’d in-  
 “ justice for me to enjoy all the glory, while  
 “ you only suffer the hazards of this enter-  
 “ prize: no, we will equally participate  
 “ in both. And if I pursue this business  
 “ with a steadiness and resolution insensible  
 “ to all you feel, it is because I love you,  
 “ because I value your fame more than I do  
 “ your lives. I would have you sensible of  
 “ every evil that now surrounds you, that  
 “ it may hereafter be said, you deliberately,  
 “ and of choice, not by accident, confronted  
 “ more than human dangers.

“ It is not therefore your fears that I con-  
 “ demn, but the method you would take to  
 “ remove them. For with what justice can  
 “ we pretend to more glory than other na-  
 “ tions, if we rate our safety at so high a  
 “ price? Or how can we pursue the foot-  
 “ steps of our noble ancestors, if we do not  
 “ trace them in such adventures as these?  
 “ Why did our master send us hither? Where-  
 “ fore among thousands, who solicited for  
 “ this employment, did he make choice of us?  
 “ Wherefore, with the most lively gratitude,  
 “ did he acknowledge our obedience? And  
 “ why, in our absence, doth he shew him-  
 “ self

“ self a father to our families? Not, surely;  
 “ that we should do our business by halves,  
 “ that we should give up our enterprise  
 “ when it was so near completion, and  
 “ bring home disappointment to him, and  
 “ dishonour to our country.

“ REFLECT, that as there is but one life,  
 “ so there is but one death; and it is with-  
 “ out any shew of reason, that you fear the  
 “ elements more than men, for twice by  
 “ either of them you cannot die. You  
 “ make light of exposing your lives in the  
 “ field against the enemies of your king, and  
 “ what is there in the wind and water more  
 “ to be dreaded? Can a wave, or a sudden  
 “ gust, be more fatal than the sword or  
 “ lance?

“ CONSIDER the end of the service in  
 “ which we are engaged. Is it not to dis-  
 “ cover provinces, to conquer them, and  
 “ lay them with honour at our master’s feet?  
 “ And shall this be defeated thro’ fear and  
 “ disobedience? No, let me rather perish  
 “ instantly, than carry back a useless life to  
 “ Lisbon, the object of everlasting disgrace  
 “ and scorn.

“ Be

“ BE persuaded then, my friends, to take  
 “ the glory that sues for your acceptance.  
 “ If nature and for tune both declared against  
 “ us, I should be the first to secure your  
 “ lives by declining the attempt. But, as  
 “ we have nothing but meer darkness to en-  
 “ counter, or rather only the creatures of  
 “ fear and superstition, let us, in the name  
 “ of God, proceed.”

THIS speech operated so powerfully upon the hearers, that they immediately cried out; GONSALVO should not only command them as their chief, but have the absolute disposal of their lives and liberties: they would yield him a blind obedience, and submit to all his directions without murmur or dispute.

UPON this full display of courage orders were given for proceeding. But tho’ the weather was fair, the sea, as they approached, proved so extremely rapid, that the ship was driven quite wide of its course. To remedy this, GONSALVO fitted out the two shallops to take the large vessel in tow, committing one to the care of Anthony Gago, and the other to Gonsalvo Lewis, men of known valour and experience. In this manner they  
 boldly



boldly penetrated the thickest darkness, which, after some progress, seemed to lessen and break off towards the east. And tho' the waters made a dreadful roaring, and their imagination had found ample scope for the exercise of its former terrors, they with the same steady perseverance got past the obscurity.

THE air being now clear, and the sun shining out, they presently discovered a high point of land, to which GONSALVO gave the name of Cape St Laurence. When they had doubled this point, they beheld a rich and fertile country, full of beautiful high trees, which extended themselves quite from the summit of the hills, through the valleys, to the sea side; while the formidable cloud, the cause of all their anxiety and terror, seemed now so far retired, as only to crown the tops of the mountains. So glorious a prospect filled every mind with unspeakable delight; their terrors were totally forgotten, and they embraced each other with tears of joy, pouring out their thanks to God, and to their commander, by whose example and persuasion their labours had issued in so happy a period: the pilot too, whose skill had so successfully conducted them hither, was re-

D

stored

stored to perfect confidence, and received his share of gratitude and praise.

SAILING onwards, they saw a large bay; and as MORALES conjectured that it was the place where the English had formerly resided, he came here to an anchor. Some were instantly solicitous to go ashore, but the sun being then set, it was judged proper to defer it till the morning. Accordingly, the next day, Ruy Paes, with a company of well-armed soldiers, landed in the very same place where LIONEL landed before, and by certain tokens, which MORALES gave him, found, with great satisfaction, the footsteps of the English. Being led on by a plain and beaten track, they presently discovered the great tree, and, approaching nearer, perceived the cross and the inscription. They read the mournful exhortation with tears of unfeigned compassion, confirming the truth of Seneca's observation, that pity is the first degree of kindness among men.

AFTER such indubitable testimonies of success, they returned to JUAN GONSALVO, who being now fully convinced of the truth of every circumstance of MORALES's account, prepared immediately for a general disembarkation, which he conducted with great solemn-

solemnity ; taking possession of the place in the name of Don John king of Portuga and of the Infant DON HENRY, knight and master of the order of Christ. The earth was blessed by two Religious, and the air and water purified by calling on the name of God. This ceremony was performed on the feast day of St Elizabeth.

GONSALVO could not express the satisfaction he felt at having made so easy a purchase. But being anxious to know that his title to it was clear and indisputable, he commanded his people to penetrate as far as they judged necessary, and strictly search hill, dale, and wood, for inhabitants. But there was no living creature to be found, except a prodigious quantity of birds of various shape and colour, which suffered themselves to be taken without any signs of fear or resistance.

HE now returned aboard, where having called a council, it was judged expedient, as they had leisure and a favourable season, to make a more particular examination of the place before their return to Lisbon. But as the shore was full of rocks, many of which did not rise above the surface of the water,



they were obliged to prosecute their search in the shallops. GONSALVO, therefore, taking one, and committing the charge of the other to captain Alvare Alfons, passed the point and the valley towards the west, from whence issued four beautiful small rivers, the water of which being exceedingly clear and good, he ordered several bottles to be filled with it as a present to the Infant.

THE next object that attracted their notice, was another valley, watered also by a fine rivulet. Here they landed some soldiers, who discovered nothing but a great number of springs, and a vast tuft of trees that grew together like a bower. One of the largest of these GONSALVO formed into a cross, from whence the place derived its name of Santa-Cruz, or Holy-Cross. Proceeding onwards, they weathered a point of land, that extended itself still farther into the sea. It was remarkable for the many large birds that inhabited it, the number of which was so formidable, that the men were afraid of being devoured by them; they, therefore, called this place Punta dos Gralhos. A little further was another valley, full of beautiful cedar-trees, the tallest  
of

of which rose upon the summit of an adjacent hill, and made a useful sea-mark.

FROM this valley they came to a fourth, where they found a spacious lake, which seemed to promise something extraordinary. Gonfálvo Ayvez was therefore ordered out with a party of soldiers, who having ascended the mountains, returned without any farther knowledge, than that they could discover the place from whence they first set out, by which they knew it to be an island, and no part of Africa, as many of them had before conjectured.

GONSALVO, not yet perfectly satisfied that the island was uninhabited, did not fail to send out parties at every convenient place, to observe if there were any traces of human creatures. In the course of this search they came to a fair and extensive plain, free from the trees which covered almost every other part, and only over-run with most beautiful fennel, called in Portuguese Funcho. Here was afterwards built the town which adopted the name of FUNCHAL, once the metropolis of the western islands as to spiritualities, and still so in point of temporalities.

IT is observable of the Portugeze, that, more modest than other nations, who bestow pompous titles upon their new plantations, they either transfer to them the names of their old colonies, or give them new ones expressive of the nature and productions of the place; of which, among many others, this remarkable town of FUNCHAL is an instance. There are three large rivers that terminate in this valley, and, where they disembogue themselves, form two small islands, which in a manner land-lock the haven, and secure it from the sea and winds.

GONSALVO, continuing to coast the country, came to a large rock, which he named Praya formosa, or the beautiful rock; because of its vast size, and the delicious water that runs from it. They next discovered, between two points, a most rapid torrent, the waters of which, notwithstanding the impetuosity of their motion, were so clear, as to excite the attention of the whole company. There were present two soldiers of Lagos, very expert swimmers, who, willing to give an extraordinary proof of their skill, resolved to pass the torrent: but they



they had no sooner plunged in, than, in spite of all their art and strength, they found themselves hurried down by the extreme violence of the waters, and had inevitably perished, but for the immediate help of their companions. This adventure gave the torrent the name of Soccoridos, more happily than that of Agravados was given to the Arabian sea.

THEY were now got round to cape St Laurence, near which ran a fine river, that before had escaped their observation. GONSALVO, imagining that he saw upon the sand the footsteps of some extraordinary animals, was induced to enter it, in hope of making an important discovery. But he had not proceeded far, before a prodigious number of sea-wolves rushed furiously out of a cavity at the foot of a mountain, and plunged themselves into the sea. As this was the most striking event they had met with, GONSALVO received from it the title of CAMERADOS LOBOS, as Scipio Africanus and Germanicus did theirs from the provinces they respectively conquered.

THE night after their arrival in this place, the wind rose so very violently, as

to force even the rivers almost back to their source; and at length produced so dreadful a tempest, that the vessels were in the utmost danger, and this useful discovery, and the brave authors of it, had like to have perished together. But it happily subsiding towards day, GONSALVO, to secure himself against the return of such an accident, retreated close under the two small islands before-mentioned; where he stored himself with wood, water, birds, plants, and even earth itself, which he intended to present to the king and Infant. Having compleated every necessary task, and fully gratified his curiosity, he set sail for Portugal, and, at the end of the month of August, in the same year, arrived safely in the port of Lisbon, where he found his master in anxious expectation of him. This expedition was accomplished without the loss of a single man, and by it was added to his majesty's dominions, the possession of the best island in the western ocean.

THE king and Infant received the brave GONSALVO with unfeigned affection and joy, and appointed thanksgivings in all the churches for his return, and the accession made by his labours to the national interest, and

and to the true religion, which would now be extended to the remoter parts of the globe. Public rejoicings were also made throughout the whole city, which lasted a considerable time ; and no mark of distinction was omitted, necessary to impress upon the minds of the people a just sense of this important acquisition.

DURING these testimonies of gratitude to heaven and to GONSALVO, the king ordered that the relation of so extraordinary a voyage should be made in a full assembly of the nobles of the court and foreign ministers. Accordingly, on the day appointed for that purpose, GONSALVO was introduced into the audience chamber, and after having kissed the king's hand, and paid the usual respects to every one present, he began an exact detail of the whole expedition, from the hour of his setting sail from Puerto Santo, to the very day of his return to Lisbon ; in which he did not omit a single circumstance, but took frequent occasion to expatiate on the advantages of the acquisition, and the necessity of an immediate improvement. He then presented his majesty with the several productions of the island,

who,



who, without any meditation, gave it the name of MADEIRA, on account of that vast quantity of wood, for which it was chiefly remarkable.

THIS account was received with marks of general approbation and applause. The King paid high attestations to GONSALVO's merit, and soon after consented that he should return with a plantation the following spring, appointing him governor of the place; which, together with the title of Marquis, the eldest of his family have hitherto enjoyed.

GONSALVO's second voyage took place in the month of May 1421, when he parted from Lisbon with his lady Constantia Rodriguez de Sa, descended from the antient family of Almeyda, Juan Gonfalvo his son, and Helen and Beatrix his two daughters. He arrived at MADEIRA in a few days, and having moored his anchors exactly in the place where the English and he had landed before, in honour of LIONEL MACHIN, whom he deemed the first discoverer, he called the harbour Puerto Machico, or Machino, which name it still retains. After they

they had formed a proper place for their present accommodation, the governor immediately began to lay the foundation of a church, resolving that the first edifice in the island should be dedicated to our Saviour Jesus Christ, as LIONEL had requested in the inscription. And to be strictly just to his memory, he raised the structure exactly over the grave where he and ARABELLA lay buried, supplying the place of the high tree with a fine altar, on which were recorded the chief circumstances of their lives. Such an honourable repository did these unhappy lovers at length obtain.

WHEN this last office of humanity was thus nobly discharged, his next care was to erect a town, and the valley of Fennel was judged most convenient for the purpose ; for, besides the beauty of the situation, the two small islands formed a most safe and convenient port for trade. Such was the original of the illustrious town of FUNCHAL, which, in this infant state, had but two churches, the first dedicated by GONSALVO to God our Saviour, and the second to St Catherine by Constance his lady ; contrary to what Juan de Barros has advanced, who supposes the  
foundation

foundation of two other churches. This mistake inclines me to doubt his assertion elsewhere, where he says, " that GONSALVO " set fire to the woods, which continued burning for seven years, and could not be extinguished; while there was a tree left to " feed the flame ;" which he assigns as the cause of the present excessive scarcity of fuel. But all this is evidently a fable ; since there are trees in great abundance and of full growth, and fuel enough to keep at work one hundred and fifty mills.

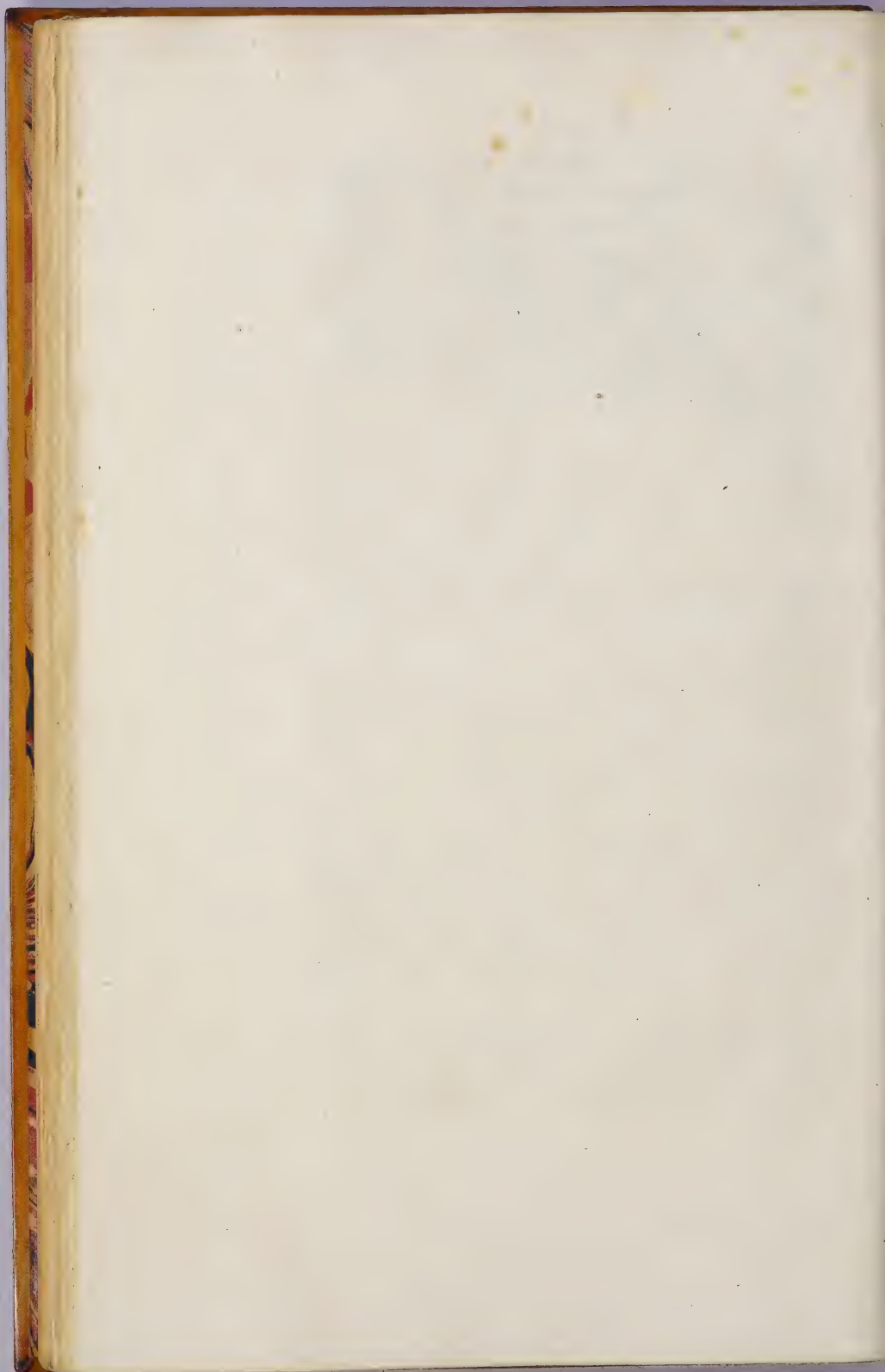
AFTER the death of Don John king of Portugal, his son and successor Don Duarte, considering the great expence his brother HENRY had been at, in discovering and peopling this island, made him a grant of the issues and profits of it during life, which was executed at Cintra the twenty-sixth day of September, in the year 1433 ; and upon the same account he gave in perpetuity the spiritual jurisdiction of it to the order of Christ, which was afterwards confirmed by king Don Alphonso in the year 1439.

AND to encourage his other subjects to take the same worthy method of obtaining the distinctions of his favour, he gave to

JUAN

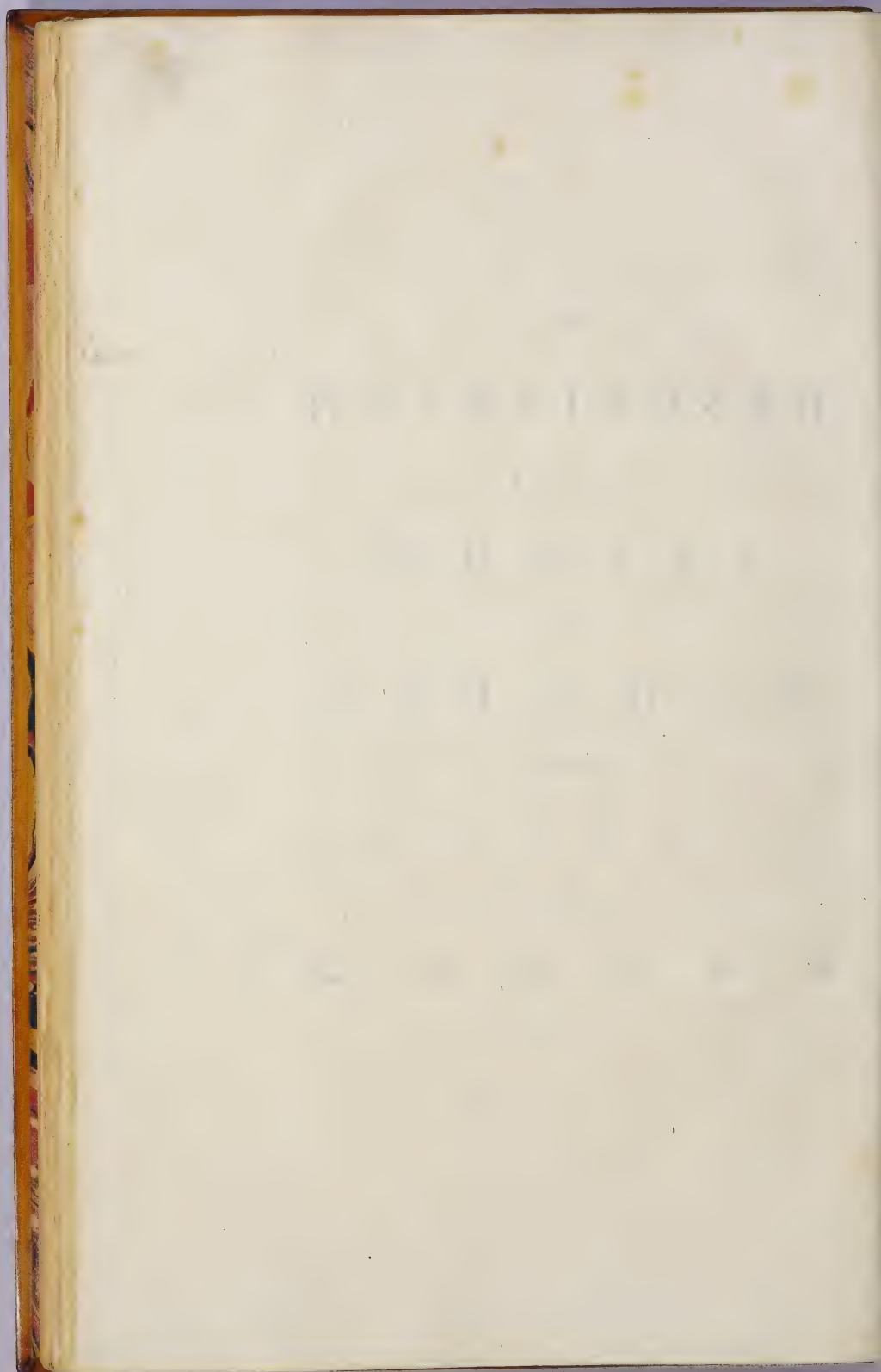


JUAN GONSALVO ZARCO, a new coat of arms, the blazon of which was, a castle argent, in a field sinople, supported by sea-wolves, and the title of Marquis do Camara dos Lobos, from the sea-wolves taken notice of above; both which marks of honour are still enjoyed by the descendants of our WORTHY DISCOVERER.



A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
ISLAND  
OF  
MADEIRA,  
IN A  
LETTER  
TO A  
FRIEND.





A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
ISLAND  
OF  
MADEIRA,  
IN A  
LETTER TO A FRIEND.

DEAR SIR,

I HAD a favourable voyage to MADEIRA, where I have now resided three months. And that you may not justly accuse me of an indolence and inattention, too prevalent among young travellers, but reproachful to their understanding, and destructive of the advantages, for which travelling is at first undertaken, I have drawn up the following short account of the present state of this island; an account, of which I cannot boast either the regularity or exactness; but such as it is, I give it to your curiosity, and submit it to your candor.

E

THE

THE first distinct view we had of this island was at the distance of three leagues, from whence it made a very hideous appearance, occasioned by several vast mountains, the lower parts of which seemed of a red gravelly colour and quite barren, and the summits of a dark dirty green.

As we approached nearer, the scene became more distinct and varied. By the aid of our glasses, we could discern a multitude of smaller hills, covered with vegetables of different kinds, about which were scattered many single houses, that looked white and uniform, and at the bottom, close to the shore, stood several little towns and villages. This, together with the large streams of fresh water which poured in cascades down the mountains, formed a new and very entertaining prospect, and made me impatient to be on shore.

UPON our arrival in the harbour of FUNCHAL, several of the Portuguese came to visit us, some out of curiosity, and others to traffic provisions, &c. for old black cloaths. The boats they make use of, are about the size of our yawl, and resemble the Venetian gondola, having carved pieces of wood fixed perpendicularly  
at



at head and stern, the use of which I cannot conceive, unless it is occasionally to hold by in this rough sea, or to fasten them the more securely to ships. Their oars are shaped like ours, but much larger, and, towards the middle, there are additional pieces of wood, in which are made holes to fix them upon two pegs, placed on the edge of the boat for the greater convenience in rowing. The workmanship is very mean, and their boats are fitted up in the same wretched manner, without the least ornament, except a sort of painted margin on the inside, that time has almost defaced. But the boatmen make yet a much worse appearance, being in colour like Mulattoes, and having scarce any cloaths to cover them.

FROM the latter end of November to the beginning of March, the wind blows from SSW. during which period the weather is generally stormy, and the harbour, which lies open to the sea, becomes extremely dangerous; for so violent and sudden are the winds, that it is fortunate for the ships that lie there, if they have time to cut away their anchors, and run to sea. Indeed there is no place where ships can ride with any degree of safety, unless within

shelter of a very high rock called the Leeuw.

WE had not been long in the harbour before we experienced one of these storms, which caused so dreadful a commotion in the sea, that we expected every moment to be driven upon the rocks. A Dutch vessel, notwithstanding she lay behind the Leeuw, could not resist the violence of the tempest, but being presently drove from her moorings, was dashed in pieces, and the crew with great difficulty were saved. Our stream cable soon parted from us, and we had nothing left for our security but our small bower, which, upon examination, we found half worn asunder by the chaffing of the ship: so that if the storm had continued much longer, we must have shared the fate of the Dutchman; for, as the wind stood in shore, we could not possibly cut cable and run to sea, but were reduced to ride it out or perish. When the storm was abated, the harbour appeared all over of a muddy red colour, occasioned by a loamy earth, which the great rains had washed from the mountains. The natives informed me, that six weeks before three ships were cast away in one of these storms; but, as I have already intimated,

intimated, they happen only in the winter season.

THE surf upon the coast of the road is the greatest I ever beheld ; for it frequently rises higher than the houses, attended with a most violent noise, which is principally occasioned by the beating together of a vast quantity of large pebbles that line the shore. This, added to the clinking of bells, which in different parts of the town are continually summoning their Religious to prayers, never failed to break my rest for the first month I lay upon the island.

THIS extraordinary agitation of the sea makes the landing of their boats a work of great labour and difficulty. The men, when they come near the shore, turn the stern towards it, and wait the rising of the surf, with which they endeavour to force in : but if the first attempt fails, as it generally does, they are driven back to sea again by the falling wave, and are reduced to wait for the next rising. The second effort sometimes proves successful, when they instantly hoist the boats upon the stones out of the reach of the surf, where they leave them till they have occasion to put to sea again.



It must be acknowledged, that their boats, however inelegant, are very conveniently built for this boisterous harbour ; for they have a sort of joice or under-lidge fixed upon the outside near the bottom, which prevents their overfetting, and enables them to endure almost the greatest sea.

MADEIRA is situated in thirty-two degrees thirty minutes north latitude, is high land, very rocky and steep, eighteen leagues long, and sixteen broad. It is inhabited by Portugueze, who are very numerous, making at this time near fifty thousand. The air is peculiarly healthy, for most of the people live to a very old age ; and the winters are so temperate, that the snow seldom lies except on the tops of the mountains, and hail is very rarely to be seen. It yields a great variety of fruits, and some corn ; has a sufficient stock of black cattle, but lean ; swine, goats, and sheep, whose wool is long and hairy, differing much from ours : but the chief productions are its wines, which seem deposited here by nature for the comfort and refreshment of the hot countries that surround it.

There are only three towns of note in this island, FUNCHAL, MANCHICO, and  
SANTA

SANTA CRUZ. The principal of these is FUNCHAL, which is the see of the archbishop, and the chief residence of the governor. Besides the cathedral, it contains three parish churches, two monasteries dedicated to St Francis, a college of Jesuits, a nunnery of the order of Santa Clara, and several hospitals.

THE houses, which are scattered about the mountains, and are the villas or country-seats of the principal merchants, are indeed neat and elegant; but the houses in FUNCHAL are in general very mean, being built with pieces of rock and pebbles, covered over with an exceeding hard mortar made of the limestone. The walls are very thick, the windows not glazed but latticed, and the window frames are composed of a reddish stone like our oker, which constitutes the chief external ornament of their buildings.

THE roofs, which are nearly flat and uniform, are covered with pantiles much harder and smoother than those used in England, upon which are laid large pebble stones, to keep them from falling, or being blown down. Their rooms are large and lofty, and the cielings formed of boards neatly wrought. Over the door of every cham-

ber, and indeed over the gate of every vineyard, is fixed a wooden cross, but made with the greatest simplicity, consisting only of two laths nailed very inaccurately together.

THE house doors are large, and the entries spacious, but neither of them very elegant; the one on account of their construction, and the other because of a particular use to which in the day-time they are constantly appropriated: for the natives deem the making water, when exposed to common observation, an indecent action, and the effect of drunkenness, which they have in great abhorrence.

THEIR churches are worthy of some attention, being ornamented within with fine paintings, and elegant carvings richly gilt; but they are the labors of Italian and Flemish masters, purchased by the inhabitants themselves, or sent to them as oblations and endowments. The charnel-house also deserves to be particularly noticed; it consists of human skulls regularly and curiously placed, and is perhaps as remarkable an edifice as any that Europe can produce.

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THE nunnery of Santa Clara is a neat building, and pleasantly situated: we were admitted up stairs, and had the privilege of talking with the novitiates through a private grate, who, after a little conversation, suddenly squirted rose-water upon us, a diversion they are allowed to take in holyday-times. In Lent the streets are continually infested with religious processions, in which some saint, dressed extremely fine, is carried under a canopy supported upon mens shoulders, and preceded by several children habited like angels. The priests of the different orders succeed, and a great number of penitents, scourging themselves with knotted cords till the blood streams down their backs, form the rear. These wretches make a most horrid appearance, each having a peculiar mark of disgrace and punishment suited to the nature of his offence; but they are all naked, excepting a mask, and a garment which reaches from the middle to the knee.

THE students live a very reclusé life, and are perpetually counting their beads, and muttering over their prayers in miserable Latin. During Lent they devote themselves to peculiar mortification and severity,  
exercising

exercising the scourge every other night without mercy : and at other seasons they have no kind of relaxation except two games, one called Tocambocco, which is beating a ball through an iron ring fixed in the ground; and the other called Dammer, much like our draughts ; but these they use very sparingly.

THE surface of the country is one entire piece of irregularity, composed of rocks of different eminence, upon which is a very shallow stratum of earth, but rich and fertile, and extremely well adapted to the culture of their vines. From the tops of these mountains run many fine streams of fresh water, which, about FUNCHAL and the other towns, are received in reservoirs with large brass cocks and aqueducts, for the more convenient supply of the people.

IN these currents the labouring women stand the whole day to wash linnen, which they perform by beating it against the stones at the bottom, and afterwards laying it out to dry and whiten upon the adjacent rocks. These women, and indeed all the common people, are excessively fond of snuff, which, on account of its scarcity and value, will purchase

purchase almost any favour from them; and if any difference arises in paying them for their labour, it is always in the power of a little snuff to adjust it.

THE people belonging to the vineyards exert great skill and application in the management of their vines, and this seems to be the principal subject of emulation among the natives. They fasten a number of them together to poles about five feet high, sustained within squares, made of reed or cane, and raised a little above the surface of the earth, which, as they stand connected in long rows, form an agreeable kind of lattice-work,

THE labourers, during the month of February, are chiefly employed in refitting the old reeds, or supplying with new ones the place of those that are totally decayed. And it is very observable, that from the time they begin work, to the time they leave off, they are incessantly singing, and always in the same melancholy strain. I was induced to enquire what could be the subject of these ditties, which they were so universally fond of, and found it nothing more than their Pater-nosters and Ave Marys, a  
certain



certain number of which is daily imposed upon them by the priests.

A COMMON vineyard generally consists of three or four roods square, in the center of which stands the family-house, but miserably built with large pebble stones, heaped up without any cement, a thatched roof, a door, and sometimes a window. As these places are not at all adapted to the exercise of any sort of business, but seem intended chiefly to sleep in, their wives and children all day long sit before the door, employed either in spinning flax, or making lace upon cushions. They behave very courteously to strangers, inviting them into their huts, and offering them dried figs, raisins, and other fruits.

A SMALL part of their plantations is disposed into kitchen gardens; which, when they require weeding or planting, are ordered with great expedition. A gardener, with an instrument shaped like our narrow hough, turns up the earth, plucks out the weeds, and forms the mould into risings and hollows; he then plants or sows, as he thinks proper, and harrows with the same instrument, and the assistance of his feet; the next day it is watered, and thus the whole process

cess is completed. There are a few plantations of sugar canes, and the sugar is extremely fine : but as the people make a prodigious quantity of sweetmeats, there is scarcely enough produced for home-consumption.

THE island abounds with fruits of various kinds, and most delicious to the taste ; bananas, opuntias, yams, guavos, figs, quinces, apples, bays, oranges, limes, dates, and citrons, chesnuts, walnuts, and kitchen-fruits in great quantities.

THE banana tree, which flourishes all the year round, is from fifteen to twenty feet high. The leaves are large and pendulous. The trunk is about a foot in diameter, but of so soft and spongy a texture, that it may be cut thro' with a single stroke of a large knife. The fruit, in shape and size, resembles our cucumber, and generally grows in two large bunches, of thirty, sixty, and a hundred each. When the bunch is gathered, it is necessary to cut off the stalk, as the omission would prevent its bearing again. It is of an oily, saponaceous, and luscious nature, which renders the taste at first  
disagree-

disagréable ; but when become familiar, it proves more and more delicious.

THE opuntia is a kind of pear ; and, as it was said to turn the urine red, I was induced to eat plentifully of it, for the sake of making the experiment ; and I found that it really produced that effect. The yam is a root much like our potatoe, and made use of in the same way.

THE guavo is a fine acid fruit, in form resembling the peach, but the outside is much rougher, and it has no stone, but kernels smaller even than those of apples. It is esteemed an excellent remedy for the flux, and grows in great plenty. The quince and apple too abound much, but they are generally dry and husky. The citron is constantly kept for confection, in which state great quantities are exported. The onions, cabbages, and fallads, excel those of all other countries ; but the oil that is used with them is bad, and yet it is substituted upon all occasions in the place of butter.

THE pine apple is sometimes to be met with ; but not being a native production, it is cultivated only in particular gardens. I have



have also seen the true cinamon tree, transplanted from the East Indies to the Brazils, from whence they were brought to Madeira, and are now growing in the Providore's garden.

ALL over the island grows a tree from which the dragon's blood is procured. This is performed by making incisions in the bark, from whence the gum issues very plentifully into pots hung upon the branches to receive it. The people use it as a sovereign remedy for bruises, to which they are very much exposed by traversing this rocky country; and this, with one panacea more, completes their whole *Materia medica*; that is, balsam of Peru, imported from the Brazils in small gourds by their annual ships. These two they imagine have power to cure almost all disorders, especially those that are external.

WINES, candy'd citron-peel, and a strong sort of brandy are the principal commodities that are exported from this island. The wines are of two sorts, the common Madeira, and the Malmsey; the first of which is generally bought from ten to thirteen pounds sterling the pipe; but the latter not being near so plentiful, is consequently much dearer.

dearer. The village of Patul, where it is chiefly produced, and two or three other places contiguous, afford only about sixty pipes in a year, which generally sell for thirty pounds sterling each.

THE wines are brought from the mountains upon mules and asses in long barrels, one on each side of the beast; in the manner that goat-skins are used for the same purpose in Spain and Portugal. But as there are few horses in the island, oxen are employed to draw the wines from the presses to the warehouses or the shore, which they yoke in pairs to large sledges, extremely well adapted to the business.

MY long residence among this people has by degrees reconciled me to their manner of diet, which at first was disgusting to me. Permit me to give you a bill of fare, as I found it in Lent. It is so novel and curious, that you will be apt perhaps to condemn the reluctance of my appetite.

OUR breakfast consisted of dried figs, preserved pears, oranges, and other fruits in their original state. For dinner we were served with rock-fish, baccalaio or Newfoundland

foundland cod, and with various other kinds of fish taken daily upon their own coasts, and dressed with oil and vinegar, or sallads shred fine and boiled eggs. Sometimes we had a hodge podge, which is in high esteem with the natives, composed of pears, raisins, bread, and eggs, boiled together, with parsley and other herbs: of this some eat only the decoction, and some the fæcula; but it was not till after many ineffectual efforts that I was brought to eat either.

THE second course generally consisted of grapes confected like tamarinds, and mixed with walnut kernels, or marmalade of quinces; yams boiled and roasted; and a kind of fritters, over which was poured a large quantity of treacle. Some of these dishes I should at first have relished very well, but for the swarms of ants that covered them; an insect with which the whole island is much infested.

THE deserts were made up of the several fruits I have elsewhere enumerated. And our liquor was principally wine and water; to which brandy was added, whenever it was called for. The people are indeed exemplary with regard to drink, never urging it  
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upon their company, nor insisting upon that exact rotation which is so strictly maintained in England. And yet this is not the effect of an illiberal spirit, but purely of the love of sobriety; for there is constantly a plentiful supply of wine and other liquors, and servants stand ready to bring them when they are called for.

THIS custom is so truly polite, and so worthy of universal imitation, that I cannot without regret mention another in which they betray great indelicacy, and that is, the disuse of forks; for, whatever be the reason for excluding this necessary implement, it is certain I never saw any even in the best families, and the consequences of the want of it appear very disagreeable and shocking to an European. They are as regardless of decency too with respect to their beds, which they seldom make, but leave them from day to day, till they become solid lumps, as hard and as unpropitious to the rest of a stranger as a board, but a most comfortable residence for the fleas that inhabit them by myriads.

THE people who constantly live in the country are almost strangers to the taste of bread

bread or flesh. Their principal food, during the four months of winter, is yams; in the spring and summer the fruits then in season; and, in autumn, chesnuts, walnuts, &c.

THE poorer natives are afflicted with a disease which is almost hereditary to them, a kind of leprosy, that always itches, and appears in a hard, dry scab, surrounded with watry blisters. The prevailing opinion is, that it proceeds from the venereal disease ill cured; and the salt fish, upon which they chiefly subsist, does not a little contribute to heighten its malignity.

THERE is an hospital set apart for the reception of these unhappy people, that is situated directly opposite to the Leeuw, upon the rocks of the shore, where they lie basking in the sun, and eating the opuntia, which grows in great plenty all round them, and is esteemed efficacious in abating the virulency of their distemper.

TIME, who seldom fails to leave behind him some visible effects of his power, seems to attack, with uncommon rigour, the faces of the women of this island: for, I think, I never saw an old woman here, that did not

bear much stronger marks of his severity, than are to be observed in any other place. This is recompensed, however, by the opposite extreme; and the young ladies may boast an equal superiority of beauty, grace, and elegance. Perhaps, the ease and symmetry, for which they are so remarkable, may in a great degree be owing to their not wearing stays, that preposterous and unnatural part of dress, known only in Europe, which restrains the growth of the body, deprives it of its native beauty and proportion, adds nothing externally but an awkward stiffness, confirms natural and inherent defects, brings with it a train of new disorders, and intails upon posterity weakness, disease, and deformity.

BUT the prevailing prejudice, in favour of this garment, will scarcely allow you to admit, that the disuse of it can be the foundation of any degree of delicacy; and I am not very willing to contest a point, that may shake my reputation among the fair-ones of your family. This, however, I will maintain, with all the spirit and resolution of a knight-errant, that the ladies of MADEIRA may as justly put in their claim to the prize of beauty, as any set of ladies in the world.



IT is not stays only that they so prudently reject, but hoops and caps meet with equal discouragement. Their hair, which is generally long and very black, either flows loosely upon their shoulders, or is plaited in a tail, or tied up in a rose; but always ornamented with bent combs, large silver pins, or artificial flowers.

THEY put on divers petticoats, some of which are finely embroidered; and, in the place of stays, they wear a thin waistcoat that laces before. Above this is a cappota, much like our ladies capuchins, which is trimmed with gold or silver lace, and made large and loose about the neck and shoulders, in order to conceal upon occasion the chin and mouth. Their ears are adorned with large pendants, and their wrists with bracelets. They wear slippers with very narrow heels; and their gowns, and almost all their external apparel, are black; a colour they are extravagantly fond of.

THESE ladies are never permitted to walk abroad, except to mass; and then only in the company of three or four old women, who are retained by the father, brother, or husband, as the guardians of female

honour. Nor is this restraint in the least alleviated by any innocent freedoms at home, where they might reasonably claim an equal share of those tender social delights, which are the truest sweeteners of human life, and which they seem completely qualified to relish and improve.

THIS unaccountable severity shocked me exceedingly the moment I was witness to it: but reflecting, that it might be only the novelty of the practice, and my own native prejudices in favour of its blessed opposite, that raised this violent indignation in me, I set myself very sagely to examine the subject to the bottom. And the result was, that nature, by the frame and constitution of this most exquisite of her productions, had invested it with such peculiar and unalienable rights, and that man's most refined social happiness depended so much upon the perfect exercise of these rights; that the infringement of them was equally an act of injustice, and an evidence of folly. Indeed, however high the pretensions of Italy, Spain, and Portugal, may be, in other respects, to politeness and humanity, this arbitrary conduct towards their women, in every possible light in which we can consider the motives to it,

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is a species of the lowest corruption and barbarity.

WELL now, am I not a stout philosopher? In truth, the inquiry has suggested a train of new and useful thoughts, and you may tell Maria that I hope we shall mutually enjoy its happy fruits.

THERE is nothing very peculiar in the dress of the men, except that their coats are generally made of black cloth, notwithstanding its scarcity and high price; that they never stir from home without an enormous espado in their hands, or under their arms, and a monstrous rocchetto thrown carelessly over their shoulders, which they profess to wear in winter to defend them from the cold, and in summer from the rays of the sun.

UPON the most cool and impartial review of the state of this island, the commercial advantages of its situation, the temperature of the climate, the fertility of the soil; the variety and nature of its productions, which, in general, are some of the most salutary, and the most pleasing to the sense; the romantic form of its external appearance, in which



hill, dale, wood, and water, have united all their beauties; in short, the assemblage of every thing that can render the outward condition peculiarly happy: I could be induced to fix my residence in it rather than in any place which reading or travelling has yet brought to my knowledge. But then the social principle would be sacrificed, and man, as a benevolent and rational being, must be wretched. This is a natural consequence of the manners and religion of the people, the manners of a fordid race of beings made worse by their religion; for superstition is carried here to the last excess of folly and barbarity, and the priests, who are the lowest I ever knew, hold an absolute sway over the consciences, the possessions, and the actions of the laity.

My labours I see are drawing near their period: for every thing I could urge in support of this assertion is effectually superseded by Mr Ovington's\* faithful account of this people, inserted in the relation of his voyage to Suratt, to which I refer you. You laugh, and suspect that laziness has suggested this as an expedient for its relief: but read that part of

\* The observations in the account here mentioned are so much to the purpose, and wrote with so masterly a spirit, that it may not be improper to add a few extracts from it.

of the book, which I assure you is strictly just in point of character, and then determine. If you persist in laughing, why I must join in the mirth; for I think I have acquitted myself admirably well for so young a traveller. And therefore, without any further ceremony, I will conclude with assuring you, that I am, with the most cordial wishes for your happiness, and the welfare of your whole family,

APRIL 7,  
1748.

DEAR SIR,  
YOUR, &c.

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E X T R A C T S  
FROM A  
VOYAGE TO SURATT

In the YEAR 1689.

By J. O V I N G T O N, M. A.  
Chaplain to his MAJESTY.

Printed ANNO 1696. \*Page 18-37.

THE fertility of this island is much abated from what it was in the time of its first plantation; and the present barrenness of much of the land, reminds the people of the growth of their vices, to which they ingenuously ascribe it. Among which, their effeminate lewdness may very well stand in the front of their accusations, which prevails not a little, even among those whose double obligations, of christians and married persons, should mightily deter them from that sin; especially considering how they may satisfy all their desires at home, and double their pleasures by their innocence. This inconstancy in the husband encourages (tho' it cannot legitimate) the same levity in the wife, the weakness of whose sex is

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not so much proof against the charms of alluring temptations. Therefore are the women here as apt to defraud their husbands, as the husbands are to defraud their wives, and both equally kind to strangers, especially the women, whose proneness that way, is more excited by their being cloistered and kept in, and restrained from all company.

ANOTHER reason that offers for their mutual infidelity, is the ignorance they have of each others personal humours, and unacquaintance with their dispositions before marriage, which sometimes is celebrated before a mutual interview has preceded the engagement. Whereas a competent time of courtship, and frequent visits, gives them some inspection into each others genius and inclinations, engages their mutual passions and good liking, by their constant endearing presents and conversation, which by degrees unites their hearts, and ripens their affections for a happy marriage. For which purpose it is practised in some parts of the world, in the very minority of their children, who are engaged by contract at the years of five or six, as in the Indies.

DURING our stay upon the island, a young gentleman of an advanced fortune,  
which

which was valued at fixty thousand dollars, was engaged in the courtship of a lady of eight thousand, and proceeded to marriage, without the opportunity of one sight of her before the solemnity, besides what was allowed him the day before. He was then, as it happened, in the company of her brother, and espied thro' a lattice two young ladies, and imagining one of them to be his mistress, was curious to enquire, whether of them it was? To which he received no more satisfaction, than, "To morrow, sir, is time enough for that."

IN treating about marriage, their principal enquiries are into the family and descent of the courtier, for prevention of all occasions of the detestable affinity with Moors and Jews, which among them are very numerous. To join in matrimony with any of them, is esteemed a debasement of her lineage and extraction, especially in a woman that pretends to family and education. But the English merchant is on the other side as reputable, and stands as fair in their accounts; his very name makes way for his admittance, and incorporating into the best families, especially if any equality appears in his fortune; for their subtle casuists  
make

make sometimes an inequality of fortune a just plea for dissolving a contract. But then, alas! the English merchant, if he marries, must first renounce his religion, and abandon the care of his soul, for the enjoyment of her in whom he delights. But that which much surprised me, was the prohibition of an old gentlewoman, to the proceedings of a young pretender to her daughter, upon this account; because she was informed of the health and soundness of his constitution, of the moderation and chastity of his manners, so that he was never known to labour under any venereal disease, which she concluded to arise only from the weakness of his constitution; for it seems she presumed there was no need of the restraints of conscience for so venial an offence, the committing of which, in her opinion, was meritorious.

THE execrable sin of murder has gained too not only an impunity but reputation among them, and it is made the characteristic of any gentleman of rank or fashion, to have dipt his hands in blood. To this they frequently are obnoxious, and readily incline, by reason of the easy recourse they have to their churches, which shelter them from any process, and are met with at every turn.



turn. These christians are as licentious in committing this crime, as remiss in inflicting due penalties for it, and indulge the guilt of it, even beyond what the Almighty did the Jews, though it is voluntary, by sparing the criminal, if he can lay hold of the horns of the altar ; and make banishment or confinement his utmost penalty, both which by a large present are bought off.

THE numbers of their clergy increase here, as well as in other popish countries, even to the oppression of the laity, with whom they seem to vie for multitude. It is scarce imaginable, how so many rich ecclesiastics can be supported by the labours of so few people. But to abate this wonder, they tell us, that none of their nation is admitted to the priest-hood, who is not possessed of some patrimony, to avoid a burden to the church. They are totally averse here from admitting any into sacred orders, whose originals are either Jews or Moors, and yet this caution is not observed by them at St Jaques, where native Africans officiate as priests.

THE Jesuits, among all the rest of their orders, are the only men in supream repute, which

which they aspire to by the easy absolutions of their penitents, and pretensions to stricter sanctity, and a more unblemished character, than the rest of the orders. For this end, they closely conceal from public notice all the enormities and irregularities of their order; and all their failures, but what are legible in their ignorance, which was so remarkable, that scarce one in three of those I conversed with understood Latin. If any delinquent is expelled the convent, his faults are stifled and kept as secret as confession, lest the noise of them among vulgar ears should scandalously reflect upon their society, and diminish that veneration they so zealously affect. And the only answer which is vouchsafed to any querist, for the reason of their expulsion, is, "He was unworthy of our society". This is a maxim worthy the wisdom of that order, and the imitation of all others, and highly justifies the prudent concealment of such mens' faults, whose examples might eminently scandalize any kind of profession.

NEAR the Jesuits chapel is a certain hospital, much frequented by the natives, erected for the entertainment and cure of such as have smarted for their feminine pleasures;

pleasures; whose miserable spectacles are so ghastly and frightful, that were there nothing of future punishment, these only might very well curb men in their highest career to those foul sins. Among the rest of the female penitents, we espied one near the altar, weeping bitterly, with a sorrowful dejected countenance, and in deep anguish of heart. This sight produced something of the same melancholy effects upon us, till I recovered myself at the hopes I had of her happy condition, which such floods of tears seemed to promise. Had all the rest evidenced the like sorrow and concern she did, this infamous society (for aught I know) had been the most honourable upon the island. But their measures herein are very unequal, for a modest salute is an offence insufferable, whilst this abominable vice many of them scarce stand to parly with.

THEIR churches are most commonly made use of for repositories of their dead, in the interment of whom they mix store of lime with the earth, to hasten the consumption of the corps, by whose sudden mouldering away, upon this account, there is room made within a fortnight for a fresh funeral. To signalize their respect for the  
deceased



deceased, the corps is curiously trimmed and adorned, as a faint emblem of its glorious and triumphant resurrection, in imitation of the wise king, who buried with his royal father an invaluable treasure.

BUT as their church allows no charitable thoughts to the souls of heretics, so does it forbid all kindness to their dead bodies, and prosecutes the English that die there, with more inexorable hatred, than what they shew to the carcasses of beasts and birds, which may find a resting place on shore, and quietly remain upon common ground; both which are strictly forbid the English, who are cast into the sea, and committed to the waves. And, accordingly, an English merchant falling sick of a sudden distemper, at MADEIRA, was unfortunately carried off by it; which moved the rest of our nation that were there, to contrive for his decent interment. And therefore, lest a public burial might expose him to the rage of the people, or the clergy's indignation, they concluded to deposit him among the rocks, in order to his better concealment. But the rocks were unable to shelter him from their tyranny, which was exercised upon him in this barbarous manner:

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they dragged him from the place where he lay, up and down the island, and exposed him to the contempt of the inhabitants, till they threw him into the ocean. This inhumanity, which is carried even beyond the grave, is propagated as far as their plantations in the East; where if any Protestant chance to die among the nation of the Portuguese, no place is allowed for his reception, nor vile enough for his sepulchre, but the very corps of a rank heretic annoys the dominions of a catholic country, tho' it were buried under ground. And yet a powerful sum of money, which is said to blind the world, prevailed to open the eyes of the priests intellectuals in this very case; for thus they stated the difficulty concerning an English child, which had been clandestinely interred there; that if it were immediately taken up, and then baptized after their manner, and so made a member of their church, it might be admitted among their dead. This conclusion was approved of as canonical, for the child was baptized, buried after their manner, and deposited where it was taken up.

THE canons of the cathedral church, which stands about the midst of the city, are

as exquisite in their contrivance for their ease, as the others were for burying money. The constitutions of their church oblige their attendance at prayers by four o'clock in the morning: but because such early rising is very troublesome, especially to corpulent men, therefore they agree, that the clock shall never in the morning strike four, till it really be five; and order its motions by this method, always an hour or so slower than the sun, that they may punctually indulge their own repose, by this mock obedience to the orders of their church.

YET how negligent soever they may appear in this instance, they all pretend a mighty zeal for their faith, especially in the meritorious conversion of any stranger, upon which we suspected they had been too intent, by the loss we had of some few of our men, whom no search could discover to us. The Jesuits we conjectured must be concerned in it, because their love for the cause is generally more flaming than that of the other orders among them; and therefore we resolved upon addressing to the governor for demanding an enquiry after them in the college of the Jesuits: but we found his power could not reach it. The time grew on that we must depart, and we were much  
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concerned to leave our men, when we were engaged to set sail, because the want of them on board might be very prejudicial in a tedious voyage. Our commander, therefore, having got without gun-shot of their citadels, manned out his pinnace with twelve or fourteen hands, well provided with swords and fire arms, and appointed them to row along the shore, to apprehend, if possible, some few of their fishers, to supply the places of our sailors. As they cruised along, they met by chance with another prize, viz. a comely abbot and a vicar, coming up to Funchal from the country in a boat. They were strangely surpris'd, to find themselves unexpectedly taken, and pirated by a boat's crew ; but much more concerned, when we told them they must bid farewell to all their friends and festivities at MADEIRA, and imbarque with us in an Indian voyage, or at least remain our prisoners on board till the Jesuits restored our men on shore. The thought of this amazed and struck them with confusion, and forced from their breast many a groan and sigh, for their sorrow seemed to surpass its expression by any tears. And yet they were not so far lost in this consternation of mind, but that they kept within limits of reflection,

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and recollecting a method for their release. Therefore they speeded an express to the governor, and passionately implored him, for the sake of God, and the virgin Mary, to bethink himself of some project for their liberty, for which their prayers should continually ascend for his deliverance from such disasters. And our commander valuing his sailors above the priests, directed a letter to the English consul on shore.

THIS epistle was no sooner received and read, but the whole place was in an uproar about their priests ; either their priests must be returned, or all the English must suffer for it. This startled the English merchants on shore, and awakened their care of contriving some means for their safety ; for they perceived the enraged multitude, who stood upon the strand, would not be pacified without them. And therefore lest our commander should prove inexorable, and seriously resolved upon what he writ, the English merchants brought along with them money for a voyage, after they had prevailed to get on board. For they durst nor return without their priests ; and they knew not where the voyage would end. After their difficult passage on board, they related the confusion  
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the place was in, and how tumultuous the people had suddenly grown, upon the account of the detention of their priests; and how they were upon the bank of the sea, repeating their exclamations, Our Padres! Our Padres! A sudden Joy sprung up in the faces of the priests upon the sight of our English merchants, from whom they assured themselves of some relief, and release from the confinement they were under; and with sorrowful accents represented to them the unhappy minute they set forwards for Funchal; but withal, the hopes they had that their coming on board would prove favourable to their misfortune. The commander, who heard all this, reflecting upon the extreme inconvenience attending the English upon this occasion, resolved to send them all on shore, to remove that disturbance which he saw was otherwise unavoidable; for he thought the priests would be as useless to him at sea, as they commonly are at land, and a burden to either element; and so dismissed them all to their great satisfaction.

AFTER this we stood off from shore, and, without any ceremonious adieu, either to the governor or the fort, left the island.

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For it is easier to depart, than to be admitted into the harbour: because when any ship arrives there, two or three of the inquisitors, who wear the sacred garb, are sent to examine it about any sickness, or other objection, which might hinder the liberty of traffic; not suffering any sailor's setting his foot on shore, till they pronounce the ship healthful.

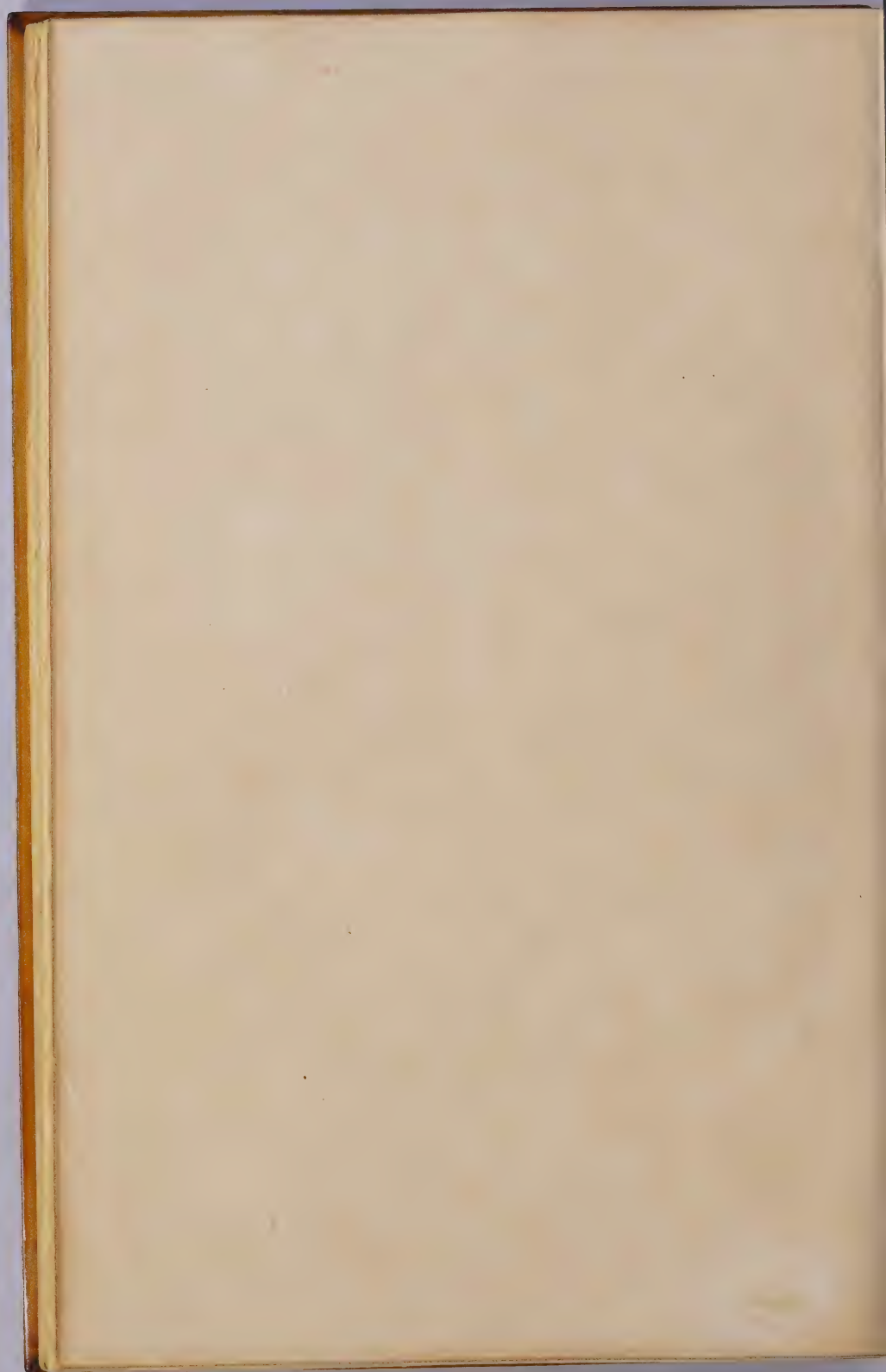
IN our way we were entertained with an unusual prospect, which to fresh navigators was very divertive; it was several winged fish, which took flight in the air, while their fins were moist, but dropt into the ocean as soon as they grew dry, and thereby unactive. Their wings are always spread while they move in the air, where they sometimes sustain themselves the space of a furlong. When they drop into the ocean, the watchful dolphins are generally ready to devour them, whose swiftness in the water equals almost the flight of the others in the air. And as timorous animals at land seek for shelter from men, when they find themselves in apparent danger from a merciless persecutor; so the flying fish will betake themselves to our ships, and fall upon our decks and shrouds, upon a hot pursuit of the

the destructive dolphin. Here likewise we were affrighted with a tornado, which, without care and speedy handing of our sails, might have endangered our ship. It came suddenly, without any previous signs of its approach, till a quarter of an hour before it came. It is a violent surprising storm of rain and wind; and that which adds to render it more formidable, is its unexpected rise, at such times as the weather is sedate and temperate; but its precipitant motion renders it less tedious, being as soon a dying, as it is short in its growth and increase.

*F I N I S.*







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